

In re MARCHISSEAU, et al.
09/988,398

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (amended) A method of securing friction liners on an annular support plate, the support plate having an outer periphery defining a radial blade having opposed lateral faces including at least one lateral fastening face which defines an adhesion zone of predetermined form positioned on the fastening face, the method being a method of adhesively bonding the said friction liners on at least one said lateral fastening face and comprising:

- an adhesive applying step which consists in depositing a predetermined quantity of adhesive on a said an adhesion zone, wherein said deposition of adhesive is carried out by means of an adhesive applicator defining an adhesive applying zone the form of which corresponds to that of the said adhesion zone.

2. (amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the adhesive applying step comprises:

- a first, impregnation, phase which comprises impregnating with adhesive the said adhesive applying zone of the applicator head,
- and a second, adhesive applying, phase which comprises the step of bringing the impregnated adhesive applying zone of the applicator head into contact, under axial pressure, with the said adhesion zone, whereby to transfer a predetermined quantity of adhesive from the applicator head to the said blade of the support plate.

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3. (amended) A method according to Claim 2, wherein the said second phase further includes applying a backing head against the lateral face of the said blade opposed to the said lateral fastening face, whereby to apply on the said opposed face an axial force opposite to that exerted by the applicator head on the said lateral fastening face, thereby avoiding deformation of the blade.

4. (amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein, the said opposed lateral faces of each said radial blade being fastening faces, the adhesive applying step comprises the use of two applicator heads, each having a said adhesive applying zone, the said adhesive applying zones being in facing relationship to the said adhesion zones of each of the lateral fastening faces, the applicator heads being applied to the two fastening faces simultaneously.

5. (amended) A method according to Claim 1, further including, following the adhesive applying step, rotating the support plate whereby to put the said adhesion zone on the fastening face of a further said radial blade of the support plate into a position opposite the adhesive applying zone of the applicator head.

6. (original) A method according to Claim 5, further including a step of controlling the application of adhesive to at least one said lateral fastening face.

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7. (amended) A method according to Claim 6, wherein the said control step comprises using an optical system to detect the presence of adhesive on the said support plate but outside the said adhesion zone.

8. (original) A method according to Claim 6, wherein the said control step comprises using an optical system to detect absence of adhesive on at least part of the adhesion zone.

9. (amended) A method according to Claim 8, further including the step of rejecting the support plate when the said optical system detects at least one situation selected from the group consisting of the presence of adhesive or support plate but outside the adhesion zone and absence of adhesive on at least part of the adhesion zone.

10. (amended) A method according to Claim 8, wherein the said control step comprises using the said optical system to determine the real position of the said adhesion zone, carrying adhesive, with respect to the corresponding said lateral fastening face of the said blade, the control step further including comparing the said real position with a theoretical position of the adhesion zone, and rejecting the support plate if the two said positions are different from each other.

11-21. (withdrawn)